

WEBQUEST PROTOTYPE -- The Bill of Rights

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Introduction

The goal of the webquest is to create a useful resource to help ESL/Civics teachers to expand their knowledge and to teach their adult learners about the Bill of Rights.

Task/Objectives

- to gain a better understanding of the Bill of Rights and its historical context
- to discover online resources that can be used for professional development in ESL/Civics and for creating lesson plans
- to develop classroom strategies to make the Bill of Rights more meaningful to adult ESL/Civics learners

Process

1. Do this activity in a group of two or three teachers
2. Review selected original online documents/sources concerning the Bill or Rights and its origins (refer to online resources about the Bill of Rights in general)
3. Choose an amendment of common interest to all teachers participating.
4. Visit the selected resources under that particular amendment and evaluate the information according to how useful it might be to you as a teacher and to your adult ESL/Civics learners (refer to selected resources for each of the amendments or freedoms)
5. Agree on a general lesson plan format and then each person choose a section and work through it (double up sections if necessary)
6. Come together and refine the lesson plan, making sure it has a balance of facts and higher order thinking.
7. Each person pick a different amendment or freedom and produce a lesson plan to be shared by all. (These will be included in the ESL/Civics Link database)
8. Come together, critique each other's lesson plans, and prepare to use them

Products to be created:

- rubric for evaluating the success of the lesson plans (done collaboratively)
- a template to investigate the various amendments/freedoms stated in the Bill of Rights (done collaboratively)
- several lesson plans that each investigate one of the amendments/freedoms in an adult ESL/Civics classroom (done individually)

Resources

To be filled in on a separate page with anchor links from the main webquest page...Hopefully common resources and then a few for each amendment of the first 10.

Evaluation Methods

- Review the lesson plans created and share them with other colleagues
- Use the lesson plans in several different classes, then come together and discuss whether the learning goals were achieved (use the rubric collaboratively established)

Conclusion

This webquest was designed to give ESL/Civics teachers a variety of specific resources about the Bill of Rights that could be used in their classrooms and for their own professional development. Teachers often request lesson plan suggestions because of their lack of time to develop their own and this webquest's products included several lesson plans that could be shared among the participating teachers. Furthermore, having created those lesson plans, the model is clearer for how to create even more regarding the same Bill of Rights, but perhaps different amendments or individual freedoms. After using these lesson plans, undoubtedly the teachers will want to get together and talk about what worked and what didn't and then refine their lessons a bit more.